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Message Text

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53
ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 ORM-01 SR-02 EB-07 AID-05 HEW-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 IOE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 /077 W
---------- 124404
O R 191556Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3439
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 2846

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3441

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF UNRWA JO XF
SUBJECT: UNRWA FINANCING

REF: STATE 61172

1. EMBOFF SOUGHT VIEWS OF COMGEN RENNIE MAR 19 ON FEASI-
BILITY OF DELAYING REDUCTION IN UNRWA SERVICES UNTIL MAY 1,
AS REQUESTED PARA 2, REFTEL. RENNIE STATED HE PREPARED GO
ALONG WITH POSTPONEMENT OF REDUCTIONS UNTIL THAT DATE, BASED
UPON BOTH ON HIS RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH JORDANIAN PM RIFAI
AND LIKELIHOOD OF SOME IMPROVEMENT IN AGENCY'S SHORT-TERM
FLOUR SITUATION. RENNIE SAID HE CONVINCED OF RIFAI'S SINCERITY
AND COMMITMENT TO RAISING NEED FOR SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL
CONTRIBUTIONS TO AGENCY WITH OIL-RICH ARAB STATES SOONEST.

HE ALSO AGREES WITH RIFAI IT MIGHT BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR
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UNRWA TO SET REDUCTIONS IN MOTION BEFORE RIFAI HAS HAD

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OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE HIS CASE IN ARAB FORUM. IN ADDITION, RENNIE SAID IT NOW APPEARS LIKELY THAT UNRWA WILL RECEIVE SOME DONATED FLOUR (PROBABLY BELGIAN) SOONER THAN HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED. EARLIER DELIVERY WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR AGENCY TO SUSTAIN PRESENT LEVEL OF RATIONS FOR ANOTHER MONTH (I.E., UNTIL MAY 1), ALTHOUGH IT WOULD NOT CHANGE AMOUNT OF FLOUR AVAILABLE TO UNRWA FOR YEAR. THEREFORE, ANY DELAY OF THIS KIND, UNLESS IT RESULTS IN SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN ARAB CONTRIBUTIONS TO PERMIT PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL FLOUR, WOULD MEAN THAT RATION CUTS INSTITUTED ON MAY 1 WOULD HAVE TO BE PROPORTIONALLY MORE SEVERE THAN IF INTRODUCED ON ARPIL 1. GOJ AND OTHERS, RENNIE EMPHASIZED, SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS IMPLICATION.

2. US REP IN ADCOM WILL THEREFORE PLAN, AS INSTRUCTED, TO SUPPORT JORDANIAN REQUEST FOR DELAY UNTIL MAY 1. WE NOT CERTAIN IN WHAT CONTEXT REQUEST WILL ARISE, SINCE IT COMMON PRACTICE FOR GOJ AND OTHER ARAB HOST GOVTS. TO CONCERT PRIOR TO MEETING AND MAKE INITIAL HARDLINE STATEMENT CALLING FOR EXPANSION RATHER THAN REDUCTION OF AGENCY SERVICES THROUGH SINGLE SPOKESMAN. WE WOULD NOT NORMALLY EXPECT--ON BASIS OUR PAST EXPERIENCE IN ADCOM--THAT GOJ REQUEST, RECOGNI-ZING EXPLICITLY POSSIBILITY OF REDUCTIONS AND IMPLICITLY NEED TO OBTAIN GREATER ARAB CONTRIBUTIONS, WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THIS STATEMENT. IT COULD BE PUT FORWARD BY GOJ, HOWEVER, AS ELE-MENT OF COMPROMOSE IN DRAWING UP LETTER FROM ADCOM CHAIR-MAN (FRENCH AMB) TO COMGEN AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING. WE RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT DEPT AUTHORIZE EMBASSY AMMAN TO (A) ASCERTAIN HOW GOJ REP PLANS INTRODUCE ITS REQUEST IN ADCOM, AND (B) INFORM GOJ OF US WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT GOJ POSITION. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE AGAIN CALL ATTENTION TO GENERAL WEAKNESS OF PAST JORDANIAN REPRESENTATION AT ADCOM MEETINGS.

3. IF GOJ REP, OR POSSIBLY COMGEN HIMSELF IN EFFORT MELD VIEWS OF VARIOUS ADCOM MEMBERS, DOES NOT RPT NOT INTER-JECT THIS PROPOSAL, US REQP IN OUR VIEW SHOULD NOT RPT NOT TAKE LEAD. FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE EVEN OUR SUPPORT FOR DELAY PROPOSAL SHOULD BE DISTINCTLY LOW-KEY. GOJ REACTION TO PROPOSED CUTS IN UNRWA SERVICES IS MEASRUE OF SERIOUS-CONFIDENTIAL

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NESS WITH WHICH GOJ AND HOPEFULLY OTHER ARAB HOST GOVTS SHOULD AND DO VIEW IMPLICATIONS OF UNRWA'S FINANCIAL PLIGHT. ANY INDICATION THAT USG ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT DELAY COULD ACTIVATE PROPENSITY OF HOST GOVTS TO HOPE THAT USG AND EUROPEANS, RATHER THATN THEIR OWN EFFORTS WITH THEIR WEALTHIER ARAB BRETHREN, WILL AGAIN RESOLVE UNRWA'S FINANCIAL DIL-EMMA. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS MAY BE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO CONVINCE ARABS THAT IF CAVALRY IS COMING TO RESCUE OF AGENCY'S PRO-

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GRAMS, IT HAD BETTER BE MOUNTED ON ARAB STEEDS.
GODLEY

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